



## MYTH: SINGLES ADULTS NEED TO BE ENTERTAINED

By Kris Swiatocho

*[I have been single my entire adult life. Because I am single, I have had a front row experience of how churches are reaching and growing singles adults. As a result, I have found that most churches simply did not know much about singles adults or how to reach us. After several years of serving on various singles ministry leadership teams as well as starting my own, God called me to help others do the same? Specifically to help reach the church, the pastors and staff; to educate and provide resources so that ALL churches would know how to reach singles.]*

Why is it that so many pastors get rid of their single adult ministries because they think they are only about socializing? Is it because as a married person they wish they could also have some fun at church? Let me first clear up something. The success of a single adult ministry is not dependent on having any type of social per say. If a ministry is only based on socials then yes, it will fail. Social-only based ministries are typically not structured to build leaders, do a Bible study, and conduct prayer, etc. unless they are strategic fellowships. Strategic fellowships appear to be socials (to the outside world and even to some leadership of the church) but in fact they are geared to reach the lost and build the saved. These types of socials (cookouts, bowling and movie nights, hikes, road trips) can actually accentuate the existing ministry in reaching new people. It's a way to create a gateway for them to come to church.

I think what happens in some churches is the appearance of your singles ministry seems to be more focused on the socials then on personal and group growth. This is where as a pastor and/or leader, you can make a difference.

So how is your singles ministry structured? Have you ever spent anytime talking to your singles, their teachers and/or leaders? As a pastor, are you offering support to make sure the ministry doesn't end up being only about socializing? Are you overseeing their goals, helping them to accomplish their mission? Are you spending time with them to include them in the whole church? Are you suggesting working together on some of these socials (strategic fellowships) with the married's to help build a bridge? Are you holding them accountable for growth in all ways?

Yes, I know that it may appear that singles want to be kept entertained. Just remember, married people go home and have their entertainment, their social time with each other. Singles social time is with other singles, primarily at church. So let's work together to make sure both types of socializing (married and single) are growing in Christ.



*1Corinthians 19, 22-23*

*Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.*

*To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*